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International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/198, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventy-third session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides an overview of the world drug situation and the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control, taking into account the thematic areas addressed by the Assembly in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem". The report also provides information on the follow-up action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies as well as on technical support provided to Member States in those thematic areas by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with other United Nations entities, to implement the recommendations adopted at the special session.

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I. Introduction

1. Prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/198, the present report provides an overview of the current world drug situation and information on the work undertaken in assisting Member States in the implementation of the international drug control conventions, as well as the commitments made in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

2. Following the structure of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, the present report showcases action taken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in close cooperation and coordination with other entities of the United Nations system, as well as with relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental stakeholders, towards improving the normative, institutional and operational capacity of Member States at the national, regional and global levels, within the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Pursuant to the request in paragraph 102 of Assembly resolution 72/198, the present report includes a chapter on collaboration and coordination across the United Nations system in the global efforts to implement the recommendations adopted at the thirtieth special session.

II. Extent of the world drug problem

4. Corresponding to 5.1 per cent of the global population aged 15–64 years (range: 3.6 to 6.6 per cent), the prevalence of drug abuse globally has essentially remained stable in recent years. Nonetheless, given global population growth, the actual number of people who use drugs has increased slightly during the same period. An estimated one in eight people who use drugs suffer from drug use disorders.

5. Opioids continue to be responsible for the majority of the negative health impacts of drug abuse. The opioid market has never been so large and complex. Areas of concern include record high opium production in Afghanistan and a diversified opioid market, which combines internationally controlled substances, notably heroin and new psychoactive substances, as well as prescription medicines that have been diverted from the legal market or produced as counterfeit medicines on a large scale.

6. Global cocaine manufacture rose by 56 per cent over the period 2013–2016 and potential cocaine output reached the highest level ever reported in 2016. There are indications of an increase in cocaine use in many countries in North and South America. In addition, the use of cocaine base paste, previously confined to cocaine-manufacturing countries, has spread to many countries in South America.

7. Cannabis continues to be the most widely produced illicit drug worldwide but quantities of cannabis herb and resin seized decreased by 20 per cent in 2016. Cannabis use is stabilizing in high-prevalence countries, while several countries that historically have had a low prevalence of cannabis use are now reporting an increase.

8. Many countries in East and South-East Asia consider methamphetamine use to be one of the most alarming trends related to drug abuse in that subregion. Quantities of amphetamine-type stimulants seized worldwide increased by 30 per cent in 2016 to 256 tons, a record high.

9. The global new psychoactive substances market continues to be characterized by the emergence of large numbers of new substances belonging to diverse chemical

groups. From 2009 to 2017, 111 countries and territories reported to UNODC a total of 803 such substances.

10. More information on the extent of the drug problem and the latest trends is contained in the *World Drug Report 2018*.

III. International cooperation against the world drug problem

A. Follow-up to the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly: action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies

11. Reaffirming the commitment to implement the provisions set out in the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the Joint Ministerial Statement, in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, Member States resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations, in close partnership with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and to share with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug-related matters, timely information on progress made in the implementation of those recommendations.

1. Action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

12. In response, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs initiated an intensive follow-up process, devoting equal attention to the practical implementation of the recommendations contained in each of the seven thematic chapters. Thematic discussions held in October 2016, January 2017, and the fourth quarter of 2017, offered opportunities for stakeholders to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the practical implementation of the operational recommendations.

13. In line with its inclusive approach, the Commission invited United Nations entities and specialized agencies, as well as international, regional and non-governmental organizations, to actively participate in the follow-up process. The thematic discussions enjoyed the broad participation of Member States; United Nations entities;[1] regional organizations, including the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and non-governmental organizations. Stakeholders participated in person, remotely by videoconference or by sending video messages.

14. In addition to the Commission website dedicated to follow-up to the thirtieth special session (www.ungass2016.org), UNODC has developed a good practice portal (www.postungass2016.org) to ensure the retention and sharing of the valuable information gathered through the follow-up process of the Commission.

15. In its resolution 60/1, the Commission decided to convene a ministerial segment in Vienna in 2019, to take stock of the implementation of the commitments made to jointly address and counter the world drug problem, in particular in the light of the 2019 target date. Preparations for the ministerial segment continued during the intersessional period, and during the sixty-first session, the Commission adopted resolution 61/10, entitled "Preparations for the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2019".

16. At its sixty-first session, at the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence, the Commission decided to include ocfentanil, furanylfentanyl, acryloylfentanyl (acrylfentanyl), 4-fluoroisobutyrfentanyl (4-FIBF, pFIBF) and tetrahydrofuranylfentanyl (THF-F) in

[1] Including the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Narcotics Control Board and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat.

Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The Commission also decided to include carfentanil in Schedules I and IV of the 1961 Convention as amended, and further decided to include AB-CHMINACA, 5F-MDMB-PINACA (5F-ADB), AB-PINACA, UR-144, 5F-PB-22 and 4-fluoroamphetamine (4-FA) in Schedule II of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.

17. In addition to resolution 61/10, on the preparations for the sixty-second session, the Commission adopted the following resolutions at its sixty-first session: 61/1, entitled "Budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme"; 61/2, entitled "Strengthening efforts to prevent drug abuse in educational settings"; 61/3, entitled "Laboratory support for the implementation of the scheduling decisions of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs"; 61/4, entitled "Promoting measures for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C and syphilis among women who use drugs"; 61/5, entitled "Promoting the implementation of the electronic International Import and Export Authorization System for licit trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances"; 61/6, entitled "Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and related commitments on alternative development and regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy addressing socioeconomic issues"; 61/7, entitled "Addressing the specific needs of vulnerable members of society in response to the world drug problem"; 61/8, entitled "Enhancing and strengthening international and regional cooperation and domestic efforts to address the international threats posed by the non-medical use of synthetic opioids"; 61/9, entitled "Protecting children from the illicit drug challenge"; and 61/11, entitled "Promoting non-stigmatizing attitudes to ensure the availability of, access to and delivery of health, care and social services for drug users".

2. Action taken by the subsidiary bodies

18. Five meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission were held in 2017: the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Vienna from 27 to 30 June; the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Hurghada, Egypt, from 18 to 22 September; the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Guatemala City from 2 to 6 October; the Forty-first Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 27 to 30 November; and the Fifty-second session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Beirut from 13 to 17 November.

19. The subsidiary bodies addressed priority issues in their regions and discussed the regional implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, including through workshops addressing the following cross-cutting topics: the specific needs of children, youth, women and girls; the role of the Internet in drug trafficking; alternatives to imprisonment for drug-related offences; and demand reduction strategies that promote public health and safety.

B. Collaboration and coordination across the United Nations system

20. In the outcome document on its thirtieth special session, the General Assembly reiterated the principal role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the United Nations policymaking body with prime responsibility for drug-related matters, and the role of UNODC as the leading entity in the United Nations system for addressing the world drug problem. At the same time, the Assembly encouraged the Commission and UNODC to further increase cooperation and collaboration with all relevant United Nations entities and international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, when assisting Member States in designing and implementing

comprehensive, integrated and balanced national drug strategies, policies and programmes. In response, the Commission included an item on inter-agency cooperation in its agenda. For the consideration of that item at the sixty-first session of the Commission, UNODC submitted a conference room paper on inter-agency cooperation and coordination of efforts in addressing and countering the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2018/CRP.7).

21. Following a decision by the Executive Committee in April 2017, UNODC was tasked by the Secretary-General with leading the coordination among the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), WHO, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, with a view to assisting Member States with the implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, including in support of the preparations for the ministerial segment of the Commission in 2019 and beyond.

22. Through a network of focal points, UNODC, in its role as secretariat of the Commission, has been maintaining a close dialogue with the relevant United Nations entities and providing regular updates on progress made in the follow-up to the thirtieth special session, which is being led by the Commission.

23. A number of system-wide activities have been initiated since April 2017, including the development of a matrix of action related to the thirtieth special session at Headquarters and in the field, and a joint calendar of events. Both working tools are updated regularly and enable the relevant United Nations entities to have a comprehensive overview of joint and individual activities undertaken in support of the practical implementation of the operational recommendations contained in the outcome document. In addition, UNODC has been working closely with United Nations entities on a unified United Nations-wide messaging and on ways of integrating ongoing efforts into a system-wide strategy across the three pillars.

24. UNODC will continue leading the comprehensive system-wide strategic work on the implementation, including in support of the preparations for the ministerial segment in 2019.

25. Information on specific programmatic work undertaken by United Nations entities relating to the seven thematic chapters of the outcome document is provided below.

IV. Support for Member States in thematic areas

26. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, including through its global network of United Nations information centres, provided support for the overall implementation of the operational recommendations through regular news coverage across its multimedia, multilingual news platforms, highlighting issues, trends and developments pertaining to the work of the United Nations in addressing and countering the world drug problem.

A. Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues

1. Prevention of drug abuse

27. During the sixty-first session of the Commission, UNODC and WHO launched the second updated edition of the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, detailing effective strategies in preventing substance use encouraging Member States to take concrete measures to increase the quality and coverage of drug prevention

initiatives, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable groups including children, at-risk youth and women. Such work contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, specifically targets 3.5, on strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol, and 16.1, on significantly reducing all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

28. Within the framework of the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, UNODC, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and WHO further continued the dissemination of a joint guidance document on addressing substance abuse in the education sector.

29. During the sixty-first session of the Commission, UNODC also presented the new family-based programme on strengthening families through the prevention of crime, drug use and HIV/AIDS, specifically designed for the needs of families in resource-poor settings. Family-based prevention initiatives have been found to be effective in preventing substance abuse, violence, youth violence and child maltreatment. UNODC continued piloting evidence-based programmes aimed at prevention for families and schools in 12 countries, including an advocacy campaign for evidence-based prevention entitled "Listen First", reaching more than 1,000,000 people in 2017.

30. UNODC continued to mobilize youth for prevention through its Youth Initiative, reaching out through social networks and providing an opportunity to present their voices to international policymakers at the sixty-first session of the Commission through the annual Youth Forum. UNODC provided youth organizations in seven countries with the opportunity to mobilize support for prevention through Drug Abuse Prevention Centre grants.

2. Treatment of drug use disorders, rehabilitation, recovery and social reintegration; prevention, treatment and care of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne infectious diseases

31. UNODC and WHO continued support for the implementation of the UNODC/WHO *International Standards on Treatment of Drug Use Disorders*, including through field testing and the development and dissemination of technical tools and training materials. In line with the standards, Member States are encouraged to increase accessibility, coverage and quality of treatment, care and rehabilitation services for people with drug use disorders, taking into consideration the specific needs of young people and women.

32. Through their joint global programme, UNODC and WHO continued to support Member States in improving the quality and coverage of services for the treatment and care of people with drug use disorders in 19 countries, including on overdose prevention. A new set of tools to develop national quality assurance mechanisms was piloted in Afghanistan. In addition, two expert working groups were organized with a view to publishing guidelines in 2018 on the treatment of stimulant use disorders, as well as treatment of co-morbid somatic and mental health disorders.

33. UNODC and WHO also continued to support the informal scientific network during the sixty-first session of the Commission.

34. WHO continued its work on development, testing and preparation for implementation of the eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases, where the section on disorders due to psychoactive substance use is included in the chapter on mental and behavioural disorders. WHO supports countries in the implementation of the *mhGAP Intervention Guide for Mental, Neurological and Substance Use Disorders in Non-Specialized Health Settings*, and updated its Global Information System on Resources for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Use Disorders. In addition, WHO continued its international research activities on public health impact and effectiveness, cost-effectiveness of prevention and treatment interventions for substance use, and substance use disorders, as well as trainings

organized at the regional level on the public health dimensions of the world drug problem.

35. UNODC, WHO and UNAIDS continued to provide advice on overall global policies and strategies related to the global response to HIV/AIDS among people who use drugs. UNODC continued the implementation of the UNAIDS 2016–2021 Strategy towards ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 through the promotion of human rights, public health, justice and equality of access to HIV services for people who use drugs and people in prisons. UNODC provided inputs to the development of the UNAIDS action plan entitled "Fast forward: refining the operating model of the UNAIDS Joint Programme for Agenda 2030" and started its implementation.

36. UNODC assisted in developing, adopting and implementing strategies and programmes on HIV/AIDS related to drug abuse, particularly for people who inject drugs, in line with the *WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS Technical Guide for Countries to Set Targets for Universal Access to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users* in 25 countries, and on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support policies and programmes in the criminal justice system in 33 countries.

37. UNODC, WHO, UNAIDS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to jointly provide capacity-building initiatives, develop training materials and organize workshops. Some of those efforts were in support of the implementation of comprehensive HIV and hepatitis C programmes for people who inject drugs, including in prison settings. UNODC continued building the capacity of law enforcement agencies, including strengthening their partnerships with civil society to support increasing access to HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who inject drugs. Participants included more than 650 law enforcement officers, 200 civil society and community-based organizations, nearly 200 Members of Parliament and representatives of the health, education and social sectors from 11 countries. In addition, UNODC developed an e-learning tool to further increase the reach of its HIV training course among law enforcement officials.

38. UNODC initiated a new programme on HIV prevention, treatment and care in prisons in 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and developed a technical guide to ensure continuity of HIV services for people on admission to, transfer between and release from prisons, as well as the management of drug overdoses upon release from prison.

39. UNODC continued to provide targeted technical support to Member States through its field offices in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nigeria and Pakistan, as well as its regional offices for Central America and the Caribbean, for South-East Asia and the Pacific, for Central Asia and for West and Central Africa.

B. Ensuring the availability of and access to controlled substances exclusively for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion

40. To ensure the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion, UNODC encourages the adoption of legislative and policy frameworks, enhanced action to support building the capacity of health-care workers and public awareness-raising.

41. The joint UNODC programme with WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control on access to controlled drugs for medical purposes continued to support policymakers and health practitioners in Antigua, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Panama and Timor-Leste. In addition, UNODC provided technical assistance to national stakeholders in Nigeria in support of the existing national drug control strategy with a strong component to increase access of

controlled drugs for medical purposes, and in support of the development of the national policy for controlled medicines and national guidelines for pain management.

42. UNODC supported a global advocacy initiative on access to controlled drugs for medical purposes, in collaboration with WHO and the Union for International Cancer Control, partnering with other organizations including the International Narcotics Control Board, the International Atomic Energy Agency, Human Rights Watch, the University of Wisconsin Pain and Policy Studies Group, the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, and the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer.

43. WHO leads and coordinates the work of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control, in which UNODC participates with other United Nations entities. WHO develops the guidelines on management of cancer pain and continues to regularly review and update the WHO Model Lists of Essential Medicines.

44. At the sixty-first session of the Commission, UNODC also presented a new document on technical guidance on increasing access to and availability of controlled drugs for medical purposes, which was prepared on the basis of an informal technical meeting of experts convened in September 2017.

C. Supply reduction and related measures; effective law enforcement; responses to drug-related crime, countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

1. Prevention of drug-related crime

45. To promote more effective crime prevention, UNODC designed an evidence-informed life skills training programme for sports settings, called "Line Up, Live Up", through which sports coaches, teachers and other stakeholders working with at-risk youth in sports settings can teach valuable life skills. These skills include resisting social pressures to engage in delinquency, coping with anxiety and communicating effectively with peers. Training material addresses both crime and violence and drug abuse prevention. To date, a total of 146 sports coaches have been trained in Brazil, Kyrgyzstan and South Africa; they, in turn, have trained approximately 800 young people using the "Line Up, Live Up" methodology.

46. UNODC is supporting Member States through advisory services related to the development and implementation of national crime prevention strategies and action plans. These action plans include sector-specific projects on preventing youth crime and victimization, violence against women and children, and access to justice or social reintegration of offenders.

47. In Colombia, UNODC continued to support local governments in undertaking city safety audits to identify the monetary aspects, extent and nature of microtrafficking and provide local governments with a holistic approach to preventing crime, violence and drug use. In Mexico, UNODC recently introduced a similar approach to local safety audits to understand crime triggers and build evidence-based and people-oriented crime prevention policies.

2. Countering illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

48. UNODC, through its Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime, promotes stronger regional and interregional cooperation in the framework of the "networking the networks" initiative, thereby enhancing networking between existing regional and international law enforcement organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Central Asian Regional Information and

Coordination Centre, the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL), the Police Community of the Americas, the African Police Cooperation Organization, the Gulf Cooperation Council Criminal Information Center to Combat Drugs, and the Gulf Cooperation Council Police. This initiative promotes the exchange of criminal intelligence and the coordination of multilateral operations targeting all forms of drug-related organized crime and related illicit financial flows.

49. Through the LE TrainNet (Law Enforcement Training Network) initiative of the Global Programme on Building Effective Networks against Transnational Organized Crime, UNODC promotes the development of a network of law enforcement training and educational institutions that is aimed at enhancing more systematized, sustainable and inclusive cooperation, thereby supporting the sharing of best practices, training materials and tools, methodologies and trainers.

50. International cooperation in criminal matters for mutual legal assistance, extradition and confiscation of proceeds of crime remains a key area for technical assistance. UNODC continued to provide support to the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organized Crime and to the Network of Prosecutors and Central Authorities from Source, Transit and Destination Countries in response to Transnational Organized Crime in Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus. In the Americas, the Network of Prosecutors against Organized Crime (REFCO), supported by UNODC and led by the Council of Central American Prosecutors' Offices, facilitated the exchange of good practices and operational information among prosecutors.

51. Through the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, UNODC works with Member States to enhance border control measures through the establishment of port control units at seaports, dry ports and airports. Staff in the units are trained to profile and inspect cargo containers suspected of carrying illicit goods. To date, over 220 tons of cocaine, 5.1 tons of heroin, 68.4 tons of cannabis and 1,573 tons of precursors for drugs and explosives, have been seized by the more than 70 units that are currently operational in 49 Member States.

52. UNODC also continued implementation of the UNODC-WCO Airport Communication Project to strengthen law enforcement capacities at international airports.

53. In addition, UNODC continued its Global Maritime Crime Programme, assisting States to strengthen their capacity to combat maritime crime, including the smuggling of illicit substances on the high seas.

54. UNODC, in partnership with INTERPOL and Transparency International, continued the implementation of the joint programme entitled "Strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa (2016–2020)". Technical assistance was provided to 12 countries in the regions covered by the programme. In 2017, an operation launched under the programme involving 13 countries resulted in the seizure of over 55 tons of drugs, the dismantling of 20 clandestine laboratories and over 350 arrests.

55. Through its regional offices for South-East Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia and West and Central Africa, as well as its country offices, UNODC continued providing capacity-building and technical assistance, conducting trafficking threat assessments and support for judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance.

56. Together with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the Danish Demining Group and the Group of Five for the Sahel, UNODC continued to contribute to the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

57. UNODC, together with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, the Department of Political Affairs and

INTERPOL, supported, through the West Africa Coast Initiative, the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Action Plan to Address Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime and Drug Abuse in West Africa (2016–2020).

58. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan continued to promote more coherent support to the Government of Afghanistan, including in the field of counter-narcotics. The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia hosted the biannual mini-Dublin Group meetings on efforts to address illicit drugs in Ashgabat in June and December 2017.

3. Addressing links with other forms of organized crime, including money-laundering, corruption and other criminal activities

59. UNODC promotes efforts to address safe havens and to identify and mitigate money-laundering risks linked to new technologies, as well as emerging money-laundering methods and techniques.

60. Through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC provided technical assistance to 88 countries in nine subregions. Such assistance included tailor-made modular training, international conferences and substantive legal reviews. UNODC provided training for judicial authorities, financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities and customs, immigration and border control agencies. The training covered the practical and operational aspects of countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as the disruption of illicit financial flows. UNODC also continued to update and expand its Anti-Money-Laundering International Database, including its case law section.

61. UNODC continued to provide support to the Asset Recovery Network of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of Southern Africa, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa and the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network of the Caribbean. Support was provided for the entire investigation process, from the tracing of assets to freezing and seizure, management and forfeiture or confiscation, as well as the final disposal of the assets.

62. UNODC also continued the implementation of its cryptocurrency investigation training course at the national and regional levels. In 2017, around 100 participants from more than 25 Member States were trained in person. The training course is a joint project under the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism and the Global Programme on Cybercrime and is focused on developing skills to enhance collaboration between investigators, to understand cryptocurrencies and to cooperate internationally on cryptocurrency cases. In addition, more than 9,000 people took the UNODC online course on cryptocurrencies.

63. UNODC provided legislative advisory support on the drug control conventions to Peru. Furthermore, relevant and up-to-date laws from the legal library on drug control are being migrated into the Database of Legislation on Drug Control (part of the UNODC Drug Control Repository), with a view to bringing all relevant legislative resources pertinent to drug control into one database.

D. Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, children, women and communities

1. Drugs and human rights, youth, women, children, vulnerable members of society, and communities

64. To promote gender-sensitive criminal justice responses, UNODC convened a subregional workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders

(the Bangkok Rules) in Panama in September 2017, which was attended by representatives of the prison systems in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama, and civil society organizations from Guatemala.

65. In March 2018, during the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, UNODC, UN-Women, OHCHR and UNDP launched *A Practitioner's Toolkit on Women's Access to Justice Programming*, which includes a focus on the gender dimension of the world drug problem and guidance to make justice systems and responses more gender-sensitive.

66. In addition to the UNODC and WHO initiative on quality assurance for drug treatment, UNODC and WHO developed training materials for service providers on the treatment and care of women, including pregnant women, with drug use disorders and collaborated on the dissemination and implementation of the WHO *Guidelines for Identification and Management of Substance Use and Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy*.

67. UNODC, in partnership with other stakeholders, developed a training programme on addressing the specific needs of women who inject drugs. UNODC also developed the training module entitled "Gender mainstreaming monitoring and evaluation of HIV services for women who use drugs". UNODC provided over 250 government officials, civil society service providers, programme managers and other professionals in Egypt, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam with training on improving access for women who use drugs to HIV prevention, treatment and care.

68. In March 2018, UN-Women coordinated a United Nations-wide social media campaign with the hashtag #betheforceforchange, raising awareness of the impact of discrimination against people living with HIV, people who use drugs, sex workers and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons. In the United Republic of Tanzania, UN-Women is providing financial support for the development of a new gender operational plan for HIV/AIDS prevention.

69. In Kyrgyzstan, UN-Women supported the creation of economic opportunities for vulnerable women that were targeted at, among others, women who are in remission from drug use or women living with HIV. In Viet Nam, UN-Women provided technical assistance to incorporate international standards and good practices on human rights and gender equality in national HIV-related laws and policies.

70. In implementing the Global Programme on Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UNODC continued to support Member States in the implementation of measures to ensure that children in contact with the juvenile justice system receive adequate treatment for substance abuse. With regard to prevention, UNODC continued its work on family-based prevention, which was found to be equally effective for both girls and boys.

71. The UNODC Country Office for Colombia continued to provide support on restorative juvenile justice and prevention strategies for young people.

2. Proportionate and effective policies and responses, as well as legal guarantees and safeguards pertaining to criminal justice proceedings and the justice sector

72. UNODC and WHO prepared a joint publication entitled *Treatment and Care for People with Drug Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System: Alternatives to Conviction or Punishment*. An advance version was launched on the margins of the sixty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the twenty-seventh session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which allowed for a discussion on promising policies and initiatives relating to the provision of treatment for people with drug use disorders as an alternative to conviction or punishment at all stages of the criminal justice system.

73. UNODC and UNDP jointly developed a publication entitled *Global Study on Legal Aid: Global Report* to provide an overview of the availability and accessibility

of legal aid services worldwide. It contains information on, inter alia, meaningful access to legal aid for groups with specific needs, including people who use drugs and people who are living with HIV and other blood-borne diseases.

74. UNODC developed a practical roadmap for the development of prison-based rehabilitation programmes to assist national prison administrations in the initiation and/or enhancement of prison-based rehabilitation programmes, with a particular focus on education, vocational training and work programmes for prisoners.

75. In Colombia, UNODC, in partnership with OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice and Law, is carrying out joint activities focused on the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in national drug policy. Efforts are aimed at, inter alia, supporting analysis for and preparation of a methodological guide, strengthening the institutional capacities of national authorities, strengthening the capacities of communities and promoting the involvement of social actors.

76. In February 2018, OHCHR organized, with the Government of Germany, an expert seminar on drug-related offences, criminal justice responses and the use of the death penalty in South-East Asia, exploring human rights challenges in addressing the world drug problem.

77. In Tunisia, OHCHR provided technical advice to national authorities on reforming drug laws to adopt the principle of progressive sanctions for crimes of drug consumption, particularly for first-time offenders. In Cambodia, OHCHR monitored key trials, including drug-related cases, and produced internal monitoring reports to help identify gaps in human rights protection, particularly regarding the right to a fair trial.

78. OHCHR was requested by the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 37/42, to prepare a report on the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights, in consultation with States, UNODC and other United Nations agencies, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the Council at its thirty-ninth session. The report will subsequently be shared with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in preparation for the sixty-second session of the Commission, in 2019.

79. Together with the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy, UNDP, in consultation with other stakeholders, initiated the development of international guidelines on human rights and drug control, with a view to providing guidance to States and other stakeholders on the development and implementation of national drug control policies that are grounded in States' obligations under international human rights law.

E. Cross-cutting issues in addressing and countering the world drug problem: evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats, including new psychoactive substances, in conformity with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments

1. Addressing new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine, the diversion of precursors and pre-precursors and the non-medical use and misuse of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

80. The emergence of a large number of fentanyl analogues has been associated with a rising number of overdoses, including fatal overdoses, among opioid users. At the fourth UNODC-WHO expert consultation on new psychoactive substances, held in Vienna on 25 October 2017, the importance of national and regional early warning systems and the systematic collection of information on health harms for the prioritization and review of new psychoactive substances at the international level

was emphasized. Information on the most harmful, prevalent and persistent new psychoactive substances was provided to WHO for the review of substances at the thirty-ninth meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.

81. The global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme continues to support research and the collection and scientific analysis of data related to synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances. The UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances continues to provide the basis for effective evidence-based policy responses and collaboration with national, regional and international partners, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), WCO and WHO and its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence.

82. UNODC also continued efforts to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of national laboratories and promote collaboration for the detection and identification of drugs, including new psychoactive substances. Efforts included the development of analytical methodologies to address laboratory challenges in the identification of newly scheduled drugs, including fentanyl analogues in biological specimens; the use of UNODC reference standards; and assistance activities including the international collaborative exercises, a proficiency test for national laboratories in which 239 laboratories from 74 Member States participated. Scientific support was also provided by UNODC to law enforcement agencies to detect and identify new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Central Asia and South-East Asia.

2. Evolving reality, trends and existing circumstances, emerging and persistent challenges and threats

83. In the *World Drug Report 2018*, UNODC highlighted emerging and persistent trends in the world drug problem in terms of cultivation, production, trafficking, consumption and health consequences in different regions and globally. The 2018 edition has a focus on the extent of drug use among young people and older people, and also addresses specific issues related to women: both drug use among women and the role played by women in the drug supply chain.

84. UNODC continued assisting Member States in the monitoring of illicit cultivation and production of drugs. In 2017, technical support was provided to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru for monitoring coca bush cultivation, to Afghanistan, Mexico and Myanmar for monitoring opium poppy cultivation, and to Nigeria for monitoring cannabis plant cultivation.

85. In the framework of the Afghan Opiates Trade Project, UNODC produced an assessment of the trafficking of Afghan opiates along the northern route, which runs through Central Asia to the Russian Federation.

86. UNODC also provided support for the design and implementation of drug use surveys among the general population in Myanmar, Nigeria and Pakistan, and among young people in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries.

87. UNODC, in collaboration with WHO, with the involvement of many partners, including UNAIDS, EMCDDA, the African Union and OAS, continued to collaborate within the Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Drug Epidemiology to review international data collection and standards in drug epidemiology and to develop common standards and synergies, including those for the monitoring of target 3.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

88. As requested by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 60/1, UNODC conducted a consultation among Member States and other stakeholders on how to strengthen existing data-collection and analysis tools at the national level, and on possibilities to strengthen and streamline its existing data-collection and analysis tools, including improving the quality and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire. In parallel, a technical assessment on availability, quality, relevance and use of data and other information collected annually through the questionnaire

was conducted. Expert consultations were held in early 2018 to identify concrete ways to strengthen national and international data-collection tools. UNODC encourages continued reflection on possibilities for strengthening and streamlining existing data-collection and analysis tools, including ways to improve and strengthen the quality, response rate and effectiveness of the annual report questionnaire.

F. Strengthening international cooperation based on the principle of common and shared responsibility

89. In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States recommended strengthening specialized, targeted, effective and sustainable technical assistance, through and in cooperation with UNODC, as well as with WHO and other relevant United Nations entities and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to assist Member States in effectively addressing the health, socioeconomic, human rights, justice and law enforcement aspects of the world drug problem.

90. UNODC has developed a workshop to support Member States with the practical implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, which are also placed in the broader framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The workshop is aimed at raising awareness of the provisions contained in the outcome document, supporting the identification of technical assistance needs and facilitating self-assessment of the progress made in national implementation. The workshops also encourage the sharing of national good practices and lessons learned, including through the good practice portal. During the period May 2017 to February 2018, the workshop was held in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Pakistan and Trinidad and Tobago.

91. In contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs submitted its annual substantive contribution which, for 2018, was on the theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies".

92. The Commission continued efforts to enhance horizontal cooperation with other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Social Development. Immediately preceding the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2017, a round-table discussion was held on gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda, during which the Chair of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, together with the Chairs of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, discussed opportunities to enhance cooperation among the commissions in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

93. In December 2017, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held a special event with the Statistical Commission that was focused on drug statistics, practices and challenges in relation to data quality and national capacity to produce drug statistics. During its sixty-first session, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held a discussion with the Commission on the Status of Women by videoconference: it was the first time that two functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council had communicated directly in real time while they were both in session.

G. Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues

1. Socioeconomic issues and alternative development

94. Socioeconomic factors such as a lack of governance, security and rule of law and high rates of poverty and marginalization may drive illicit cultivation, and represent manifestations of poor levels of development.

95. UNODC is focusing research on the links between illicit cultivation and sustainable development, peace and stability, using relevant human development indicators, criteria related to environmental sustainability and other measurements, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

96. By disaggregating a range of socioeconomic data by opium poppy cultivation status and region, UNODC identified differences between opium-poppy-cultivating villages and non-opium-poppy-cultivating villages in Afghanistan and Myanmar. That "development gap" underscores that the availability of infrastructure and services were important determinants of opium cultivation and that other factors, such as income inequality, food insecurity, weak governance and insecurity, were both causes and consequences of illicit cultivation.

97. UNODC is conducting baseline surveys of alternative development projects that it and UNDP are implementing in Afghanistan. Special attention is given to the situation of women in areas where there is illicit crop cultivation and UNODC has — for the first time — targeted male and female household members equally in the baseline surveys. Further improving gender equality at the field level would require more UNODC alternative development programmes targeted to the needs of women.

98. To ensure the sustainability of economic alternatives to illicit crop cultivation, UNODC promotes progress in the provision and development of necessary infrastructure to facilitate market access for alternative development products.

2. Technical and financial cooperation for comprehensive and balanced development-oriented drug policies and viable economic alternatives

99. The Office's alternative development interventions are aimed at providing sustainable licit livelihoods to communities that cultivate illicit drug crops and to target communities that have stopped illicit cultivation or are vulnerable to starting illicit cultivation in the future.

100. Decreasing financial support has resulted in challenges for the sustainability of UNODC alternative development programmes in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru. Successful projects, such as the coffee cooperative programme in Shan State, Myanmar, which has recently come to an agreement with the Malongo Coffee Company to supply high-quality, niche-market coffee, require long-term donor funding to ensure their sustainability and to positively impact future public-private partnerships.

V. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1. Information on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

101. The standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC continued to play an important role as a forum for discussions in areas including strategic and budgetary matters, evaluation,

oversight, programme development and implementation, the financial situation of the Office and strengthening human resources governance.

2. Information on strategic planning

102. UNODC is working within the United Nations Secretariat on streamlining programme planning and budgeting processes to improve delivery of the Organization's mandates.

103. UNODC continued its efforts to strengthen the culture of results-based management, also with a view to linking its work to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including by incorporating links to specific targets of the Sustainable Development Goals in programme documents and annual results-based reports.

3. Information on integrated programming

104. UNODC continued to implement an integrated programming approach focusing on the incorporation of global programme components into regional and country programmes, and interregional cooperation, to respond to Member States' priorities in a sustainable manner. In 2017, UNODC launched two country programmes, for Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Indonesia, and two new global programmes, on gender equality and the empowerment of women and on alternative development and sustainable livelihoods.

105. More information on the governance and financial situation of UNODC can be found in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the mandates of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, with particular reference to the technical cooperation activities of UNODC (A/73/131).

106. As of December 2017, UNODC was managing 19 regional and country and 43 global programmes.

4. Information on evaluation

107. The Independent Evaluation Unit provides independent information that is key for accountability of the resources entrusted to UNODC by Member States. In addition, organizational learning for more efficiency and effectiveness is triggered by evaluation results and related knowledge products. The United Nations Evaluation Group peer review concluded that considerable progress had been made, but that there was also a need for more investment to strengthen accountability in UNODC.

108. The Independent Evaluation Unit completed three gender-responsive evaluations and presented recommendations to the Executive Director, senior management and Member States. In addition, the Unit quality-assured and published evaluations of 18 projects and supported national evaluation capacity-building, contributing to the review mechanism of the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Information on the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

109. Pledges to UNODC for voluntary contributions totalled $361 million in 2017, of which $182 million were pledged to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and $179 million to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund. In descending order, Colombia, the United States of America, the European Union, Japan and Germany were the largest donors, contributing approximately 75 per cent of the total pledges.

110. The financial situation of UNODC remains vulnerable, with the continuous decline in unearmarked (general-purpose) funds predicted to reach less than 1 per cent of the total income in the biennium 2018–2019. Such low levels of unearmarked funding represent a key challenge to the strategic and effective implementation of the mandates of UNODC, putting a strain on management, coordination and normative

functions. UNODC continues to count on the support of Member States to ensure predictable funding for activities under the general-purpose funds.

111. The consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 completed the transition to the funding model of full cost recovery.

112. In the biennium 2018–2019, UNODC will actively participate in the Secretary-General's reform of the Organization and will continue the implementation of major initiatives to strengthen accountability, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency of programme execution. Such initiatives include Umoja (the Secretariat-wide enterprise resource planning system), the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, the framework of engagement of external parties and enterprise risk management.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

113. In the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, representing the most recent consensus of the international community, Member States resolved to take the steps necessary to implement the operational recommendations contained in each of the seven thematic chapters, in close cooperation with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and civil society.

114. With the outcome document as a blueprint, I strongly endorse a balanced, comprehensive approach to the world drug problem, giving full weight to prevention and treatment, in line with progress made at the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly. I hope the next ministerial meeting will build on these agreements.

115. Although each country must decide its own drug policy, while simultaneously upholding relevant international legal principles and treaties, I believe there is consensus around the need for a people-centred approach, based on results rather than dogma or prejudice.

116. I have called upon UNODC, as the leading entity in the United Nations system for drug-related matters, to lead, in close cooperation with other United Nations entities, a coordinated organizational response, supporting Member States in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session, and promoting comprehensive, coherent and balanced responses to effectively address and counter the world drug problem.

117. To address the challenges faced by the international community, I urge Member States to provide UNODC with adequate, predictable and stable resources, to enable the Office to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner and to effectively respond to the increasing demand of the multilateral system for technical assistance and capacity-building, in close coordination with partner countries and all other relevant stakeholders, both within the United Nations system and outside it, at the national, regional and international levels.